

Oilseeds

Half-Yearly Export Quotas

The oilseeds market had been busy speculating about export quotas which were expected to be announced any time. The export quotas for kardiseeds and nigerseeds and their oils for the first six months have been announced for the established shippers. Rut speculation is still going on for export quotas for castorseeds, groundnuts and linseed, as well as their oils. The market is inclined to believe that established shippers of these seeds as well as oils may get 15 per cent separately of their basic year exports. Traders are trying to assess the quantum which is being estimated at about 9,000 tons. Official announcement, however, has not been made yet.

The oilseeds market after keeping steady for the first few days under review relapsed but improved later on steadily. However, the best levels were not retained on account of the uncertainty regarding export quotas. The deadlock in the Korean truer talks has aided sentiment but the financial stringency following higher rates of interest has been retarding the holding of stocks. This was in a way a salutary effect checking prices but growers are being adversely affected.

New comers have been allotted export quota for about 2,000 tons of castor oil for the first quarter on last October's applications. They have been defined as those dealers who had an internal trade of the value of Rs 5 lakhs in the base period. New comers have also received export quota of about 1,500 tons of linseed oil for the current quarter on the above basis.

The Government of India have¹ bought it wise to fix export quotas for the first six months instead of fixing them quarterly. This is no doubt to be welcomed but it would have been in the fitness of things if the export quotas for all oilseeds and oils were announced simultaneously instead of in a piecemeal way. This may have been due to the apprehension that if all the export quotas were announced at the same time, prices may have been boosted up unduly. The export quotas are fixed and staggered, keeping in view the country's requirements and hence such misgivings are unwarranted.

In kardiseed, each established shippers will receive a quota equal to 25 per cent of their basic year

exports. No quota of kardiseed oil is to be issued from Bombay or Madras as no shippers have established their claims for it.

As for nigerseed, each established shipper will receive a quota equal to 20 per cent of his basic year exports: for niger oil, the quota will be equal to 50 per cent of his export in the base year.

Of the above declared quotas, export of a quantity not exceeding 50 per cent of the total will be allowed for shipment during the first quarter ending March 1952. There is however no objection to a shipper shipping his entire quota in the second quarter.

in view of the representations made by crushers, the Government

of India have reduced the rate of import duty on copra from 37/2 per cent *ad valorem* to 25 per cent *ad valorem* where the standard of duty is leviable and from 25 per cent *ad valorem* to 15 per cent *ad valorem* in the case of imports which are the produce or manufacture of a British colony. In view of the reduction in import duty on copra and coconut oil by India and the reduction in export duty on these commodities effected by Ceylon, prices have come down during the last few weeks. This will no doubt come as a relief to soap manufacturers. The weakness of copra and coconut oil has restrained the upward trend in groundnuts and oil.

Exports of oilseeds and oil for the first six months of the fiscal year 1951-52 were as follows as compared to those of the corresponding period of last year

Exports from April to September

	1951		1950	
	(Quantity in tons)		(Value in Rs. lakhs)	
SEEDS				
Groundnuts	8,069	6,287	98.07	49.80
Linseed	4,179	31,425	42.80	288.87
Castorseeds	1,064	18,895	15.09	116.07
(In gallons lakhs)				
OILS				
Groundnuts	27.71	15.66	245.64	120.61
Linseed	28.78	6.66	268.33	51.93
Castor	34.76	18.34	420.93	109.78

Price Range of Oilseeds
(Oilseeds per cwt; oil per quarter)

	December 18	High	Low	January 9
<i>Groundnuts</i>				
Bold Ready	39-06	40-00	38-00	39-08
Bold December-January	39-06	39-06	38-00	38-04*
Bold February-March	40-06	40-10	39-00	40-00
Bold April-May	..	41-12	40-08	41-00
Coromandel	39-10	40-08	38-12	40-00
Khandesh quality	40-02	41-08	39-04	40-10
<i>Linseed</i>				
Bold Ready	41-04	41-00	39-12	40-04
Bold February-March	40-18	40-09	39-09	40-04
Bold April-May	..	40-14	39-11	40-07
<i>Castorseed</i>				
Madras quality Ready	41-00	41-08	39-00	41-08
May 1952 Delivery†	205-04	216-12	196-08	209-12
<i>Oils</i>				
Groundnut ex-mill	22-04	22-03	21-06	21-14
Groundnut Rly. Receipt	21-10	21-10	21-00	21-06
Groundnut December	21-10	21-09	21-00	21-02*
Groundnut January	21-13	21-12	21-01	21-06
Groundnut February	22-01	22-00	21-04	21-10
Groundnut March	..	22-04	21-10	21-12
Linseed oil ready	23-12	23-11	23-03	23-06
Castor oil commercial	21-14	23-04	21-04	12-00

* Expired at these rates on December 30.

† Per candy of 5 cwt.